

who will make the final decision concerning the prize.

- 7 Entries must be submitted within 12 months of full registration or its equivalent.
- 8 Regulations are obtainable from the honorary secretary of the MSSVD.
- 9 The assessors may ask the editor of an appropriate journal to consider an entry for publication. If so, it will be received for publication in the usual way.

**The Medical Society for the Study of Venereal Diseases. Report of the Honorary Secretary to the 69th Annual General Meeting held at the Royal Society of Medicine on 12 October 1990**

During this year, the membership of the society has risen from 507 to 557 of which 148 are overseas members. Five honorary life members were elected: Sir Donald Acheson, Professor King Holmes, Professor Anton Luger, Dr Philip Rodin and Professor Ernst Stolz.

Five ordinary general meetings were held and these were all well attended. The Society is grateful to the Royal Society of Medicine for allowing the meetings to be held in the Barnes Hall. The meetings were sponsored by Gist-brocades and by the Wellcome Foundation and the Society thanks them for their support.

The Spring Meeting was held in Shanklin, Isle of Wight, from 17–20 May 1990. Thirty six papers were presented and 36 shown as posters. The content and standard of presentation were high and the third MSSVD Spring Meeting Prize was awarded to Dr Helen Lacey from Manchester. There was a record attendance of 162 delegates and 44 guests. The Society is grateful to Dr Christine Baksi and her team for organising such a splendid meeting. Thanks go to the pharmaceutical companies who provided such generous sponsorship—in particular to Bayer UK, Gist-brocades, Janssen Pharmaceuticals, KabiVitrum, May & Baker, Pfizer, Smith Kline & Beecham and The Wellcome Foundation.

A highly successful joint meeting between MSSVD and the Dutch Society for the Study of Sexually Transmitted Diseases (entitled "Sex-

ually Transmitted Diseases: Viral Infections as a Cause of STD) was held in Amsterdam from 17–18 November 1989.

The ninth genitourinary study weekend for doctors in training in genitourinary medicine was held at Tetley Hall, The University of Leeds, from 31 March to 1 April 1990 and was attended by 92 doctors. The Society is grateful to Bayer UK for providing financial support. The next meeting will again be held in Leeds on the weekend of 13–14 April 1991, and again Bayer has promised full support.

The Council of the Society met on five occasions and discussed many issues of importance to the specialty including: the association of genitourinary medicine with dermatology following changes in the EEC expected to occur in 1992, the role of genitourinary medicine following introduction of the White Paper, cervical cytology and confidentiality, and the composition of the Council of MSSVD.

Genitourinary Medicine Volume 65 in 1989 consisted of 433 pages and contained 82 original papers. The papers were concerned with all aspects of sexually transmitted infections and were received from all over the world. The Society thanks Dr Adrian Mindel for his hard work as Editor in improving the appearance and content of the journal.

I should like to give my personal thanks for their support and encouragement during my first year of office to the Honorary Treasurer Dr James Bingham, the Honorary Assistant Secretary Dr Mark FitzGerald, and especially to the President and previous Honorary Secretary, Dr Michael Waugh.

DR MJ GODLEY,  
12 October 1990

## BOOK REVIEWS

**Immunology of Sexually Transmitted Diseases.** Edited by D J M Wright. (Pp 274; Price £45.) Dordrecht: Kluwer Academic Publishers. ISBN 0 746 200 870.

The subject of immunology and its applications in clinical medicine are

rapidly expanding and *Immunology and Medicine Series* attempts to provide contemporary views of immunological mechanisms in a range of clinical specialities. As the editor of this volume says, "the modern clinician is expected to be the fount of all wisdom concerning conventional diagnoses and management within his sphere of practice" and this was never more true than in the field of genitourinary medicine where immunology is perceived to be integral to the understanding and management of most sexually transmitted diseases (STD).

This multi-author text provides a much needed starting point for understanding the role of immune mechanisms in pathogenesis, diagnosis and treatment of a wide range of STD, an area sadly lacking to date in the specialist training of genitourinary physicians. It is suitable for clinicians and other health care professionals working in the field who wish to have a working knowledge of the subject, for pathologists and scientists who desire background or a starting point for specific research projects, and as a reference text for medical students. The book rightly assumes an understanding of general immunology; it adequately covers most major areas of STD, including: syphilis, viral hepatitis, HIV, gonorrhoea, herpes, Reiter's syndrome, mycoplasma and chlamydial infections, scabies, warts, and provides sections on relevant allergic reactions, most chapters with excellent bibliographies.

Overall a well written book recommended for clinicians, pathologists and scientists working in the field of genitourinary medicine.

C LOVEDAY

**ABC of Sexually Transmitted Diseases** by MW Adler. (Pp 70: £10.95). London: BMA, 1990 (ISBN 0-7279-0261-X)

The second edition of this book will be welcomed by all who need to recommend an up-to-date, concise book encompassing all aspects of genitourinary medicine suitable for General Practitioners and medical students.

The first thing I noticed about the new edition was the change of illustration on the cover—this cleverly demonstrates the potential spread of a sexually transmitted disease. The

chapter headings are unaltered with contributions as before from Ian Weller and David Goldmeier. The page setting remains the same but the text, graphs and tables have all been updated and the numbers of clinical pictures (now in colour) have increased. These show good examples of typical appearances.

In a book aimed at the non-specialist a clinical approach to the common symptoms of urethral discharge, vaginal discharge and genital ulcers is very sensible, and this has been maintained in the first few chapters of this new edition. These cover the potential causes, the appropriate examination, investigations and management. Guidance is given as to which patients

could be managed by the non-specialist and which should be referred. This is in the form of easy to follow flow charts.

The chapter that needed most updating was on AIDS. The original version was written before the identification of HIV and covered only two pages. This has now been expanded to eight pages which compactly cover the whole spectrum from epidemiology through to treatments and prevention.

The remainder of the sexually transmitted diseases are covered in the more traditional disease-based way. In addition to these there are chapters on dermatological and other non-transmissible conditions of the genitalia with good illustrations, psychological

and sexual problems and the problems of sexually transmitted diseases in pregnancy and neonates.

As with all short books space has limited the discussions of treatment and management and although those recommended may not be followed by all genitourinary physicians, alternatives are given.

This new edition remains just as refreshing as the old in its approach to genitourinary medicine and is now completely updated. At £10.95 it is easily affordable for all medical students, nurses and doctors who want a sound basic knowledge and understanding of sexually transmitted diseases and allied conditions.

JANET WILSON

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## ASSESSORS

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*The Editor thanks the following for their help in assessing submitted papers in 1990.*

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